

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 011804
ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011804

STADIS/////////
FOR MOLINEAUX FROM NEA/ARN POPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PINT, LEE

SUBJECT: SARKIS AND THE ARMY

1. BOUHABIB CALLED THIS MORNING TO PASS ON A REPORT FROM
BEIRUT (ALFRED MADY) WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING.
ALL THREE GEMAYELS HAD LUNCHEDED JANUARY 13 WITH SARKIS, AND
HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HEAR SARKIS SAY THAT HE WAS MOVING
SLOWLY AND QUIETLY TOWARD THE DECENTRALIZATION OF THE ARMY
ALONG CONFESSIONAL LINES BASHIR HAS BEEN URGING. AS AN
INTERIM SOLUTION, LOCAL UNITS ORGANIZED ON A TERRITORIAL
BASIS WOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN THEIR OWN
AREAS AND THESE UNITS COULD BEGIN TAKING OVER FROM THE ADF.
THERE WOULD BE A UNIFIED COMMAND OF SORTS.

2. BOUHABIB SAYS THAT BASHIR IS IN THE FRG THIS WEEK
TALKING TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. CHRISTOPHER
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